

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /075 W

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R 250820Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4978

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0190

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: SF,PINT,SHUM

SUBJ: TRANSKEIAN CITIZENSHIP

1. SUMMARY: IT NOW APPEARS CERTAIN THAT TRANSKEIAN INDEPENDENCE WILL MEAN LOSS OF SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP FOR XHOSAS WITH IMMEDIATE OR ANCESTRAL TIES TO TRANSKEI. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT M.C. BOTHA ISSUED STATEMENT FEBRUARY 20 DETAILING 'PROGRESS' MADE BY SAG AND TRANSKEIAN GOVERNMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSKEIAN INDEPENDENCE. ISSUANCE APPARENTLY COINCIDED WITH CLOSING OF IMPORTANT NEGOTIATING ROUND BETWEEN SAG AND TRANSKEIAN REPS WHICH DEALT WITH VARIETY OF NUTS AND BOLTS ISSUES OUTLINING NEW STATE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH SAG. (SOME OF THESE WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.)

3. STATEMENT REVEALS,THOUGH NOT PRECISION,THAT  
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XHOSAS WITH LINKS TO THE TRANSKEI WILL LOSE ANY CLAIM TO SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP. IT READS THAT'BLACK TRANSKEIANS

LIVING OR WORKING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL BECOME TRANSKEI CITIZENS BUT WILL, EXCEPT CITIZENSHIP, NOT FORFEIT EXISTING PRIVILEGES OR BENEFITS AND WILL ALSO HAVE TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS. THEY ARE, AS OF NOW, POLITICALLY CONNECTED TO THE TRANSKEI AND WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE FROM OUT OF THE REPUBLIC'.

4. COMMENT: WHAT SEEMS ALMOST AUTOLOGICAL IN BOTHA'S STATEMENT('BLACK TRANSKEIANS WILL BECOME TRANSKEI CITIZENS') IS, IN FACT, SIMPLE REITERATION OF SAG POLICY THAT ALL AFRICANS WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA ARE CITIZENS OF ONE OR ANOTHER HOMELAND. THERE HAD BEEN SOME SPECULATION, FOSTERED IN EQUAL MEASURE BY WISHFUL THINKING AND BY CHIEF MINISTER MATANZIMA'S EVASIVENESS, THAT INDEPENDENCE FOR THE TRANSKEI WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MEAN SOUTH AFRICAN EXPATRIATION OF ALL XHOSAS OF TRANSKEIAN-ORIGIN OR ANCESTRAL RELATIONSHIP LIVING WITHIN THE 'WHITE AREA' ACCORDING TO PATRICK LAURENCE ARTICLE IN FEB 21 RAND DAILY MAIL, MATANZIMA HIMSELF HAD, UNTIL RECENT ROUND OF TALKS, ATTEMPTED TO THWART SAG'S INTENT TO EXPATRIATE 'TRANSKEIANS'. HOWEVER, HE HAS APPARENTLY NOW ABANDONED THIS POSITION AND FALLEN BACK TO THE MORE LIMITED ARGUMENT THAT AT LEAST THE CHILDREN BORN TO 'TRANSKEIANS' WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA AFTER TRANSKEI'S INDEPENDENCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS. SAG IS APPARENTLY OPPOSED TO EVEN THIS MUCH SA CITIZENSHIP FOR BLACKS, BUT FORMAL DECISION ON IT HAS BEEN DELAYED. (IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF FEB 24, LAURENCE, WHO IS WELL-PLUGGED INTO HOMELAND POLITICS, CLAIMED HIS SOURCE FOR INFO ON THE SECRET DELIBERATIONS OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE WAS 'ABSOLUTELY IMPECCABLE'.) BOTHA'S DECLARATION THAT TRANSKEI CITIZENS LIVING OR WORKING IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT FORFEIT EXISTING PRIVILEGES, OTHER THAN CITIZENSHIP, HAS BEEN INTERPRETED IN ONE PRESS ACCOUNT AS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT AFRICANS WHO HAVE 'QUALIFIED' TO BE IN 'WHITE' SOUTH AFRICA UNDER TERMS OF SECTION 10 OF THE NATIVES (URBAN AREAS) ACT BY VIRTUE OF BIRTH OR LONG RESIDENCE WILL NOT BE COMPELLED TO LEAVE ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAVE OFFICIALLY BECOME FOREIGNERS. THIS, TOO, MAY BE WISHFUL THINKING.

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